

SENIOR DIETITIAN

DEFINITION:

Under direction, to assess, plan, implement, deliver nutrition education programs or services to clients of a public health clinic; to supervise subordinate Nutrition Assistants and other staff in satellite clinics; and to perform related work.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:

This is the lead level in the Dietitian class series. Positions in this class are allocated only to Health and Human Services Agency (HHS). Incumbents in this class report to a Public Health Manager and are responsible for supervising subordinate staff in assessing, planning, implementing, and delivering nutrition education programs to public health clients or provider staff. This class differs from the next lower level, Dietitian, in that the latter performs journey level non-supervisory work in developing and implementing nutritional care plans and diets for hospital patients.

EXAMPLE OF DUTIES:

Plans, directs, coordinates, schedules, trains, and evaluates the work of subordinate Nutrition Assistants and other support staff in the delivery of nutrition education programs; develops and delivers an annual WIC nutrition education plan, consisting of classroom presentations, audio-visual displays, and printed material distribution; designs and implements dietary screening tools and measuring techniques to assess the effectiveness of nutrition educational programs; interviews high-risk clients to determine eligibility for food vouchers; conducts nutrition counseling and instruction; identifies nutritional risk conditions, recommends corrective actions, and makes referrals to Public Health Nursing staff if necessary; provides training and technical guidance on nutrition topics to Public Health Services and/or provider community staff; updates nutritional education pamphlets, intake forms, and other clinic documents; participates in community nutrition activities; prepares status reports on nutrition education activities; and assists Nutritionist in assessing nutritional status of participants and new applicants.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

Thorough Knowledge of:

- Nutritional needs of persons all age groups and backgrounds to include prenatal/childhood clients.
- Techniques of nutritional counseling.
- Principles and techniques food budgeting, shopping techniques and meal preparation.
- Dietary screening tools.
- Teaching techniques for community health programs, including education plan development and use of audio-visual materials.

General Knowledge of:

- Supervision and training principles and techniques.

Skills and Abilities to:

- Assign, train, and evaluate the work of subordinate staff.
- Initiate and maintain an ongoing nutrition education program.
- Develop and implement a nutritional care plan and diets for clients.
- Interview clients and determine client eligibility for program benefits.
- Counsel and give nutrition and diet instruction to clients of various socio-economic backgrounds.
- Review clients' health condition and progress and modify diets if necessary.
- Develops appropriate recipes for modified diet food production.
- Effectively communicate in oral and written form.

EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE:

Education, training and/or experience that clearly demonstrate possession of the knowledge, skills and abilities stated above. Examples of qualifying education/experience combinations are: the possession of a bachelor's degree in food, nutrition or community nutrition AND two (2) years of experience in planning, implementing, delivering and evaluating nutritional services to patients or clients in either a hospital or public health setting. Previous experience in supervising subordinate staff in delivering nutrition educational programs is highly desirable; OR one (1) year of experience as a Dietitian for the County of San Diego.

SPECIAL NOTES, LICENSES OR REQUIREMENTS:**Registration:**

Incumbents must possess a Certificate of Registration as a Dietitian by the American Dietetic Association at the time of application. NOTE: applicants who are eligible to a Certificate of Registration Examination may also be considered for employment. Applicants hired with registration pending may be subject to termination if registration is not obtained.

License:

A valid California Class C driver's license is required at time of appointment or the ability to arrange transportation for field travel. Employees in this class may be required to use their own personal vehicle.

Working Conditions:

Incumbents are in contact with patients or clients who may display hostile, violent, or unpredictable behavior. Some patients or clients may have contagious diseases.

Physical Requirement:

Incumbents may lift objects weighing up to 50 pounds.

Probationary Period:

Incumbents appointed to permanent positions in this class shall serve a probationary period of twelve (12) months. (Civil Service Rule 4.2.5).

Conflict of Interest:

Individuals hired into this class will be required to file a Conflict of Interest statement pursuant to Conflict of Interest Codes adopted by County agencies and departments and approved by the Board of Supervisors. Such statement must be filed within thirty (30) days of hiring date.